



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

ABOUT THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The Green Climate Fund helps developing countries mitigate (prevent) and adapt to (deal with the consequences of) climate change. The fund helps developing countries find sustainable sources of energy and new ways of farming and living amid climate disruption.

This fund is an important commitment on the part of the United States, which has been one of the world's heaviest emitters of greenhouse gases, to the people in the developing countries who bear the brunt of the effects of climate change. The Green Climate Fund is a sensible economic plan that will assist in development, prevent security threats, and advance the United States' moral leadership on climate change.

Catholics Support Carbon Standards

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has written a letter to Congress in support of the Green Climate Fund. The letter recommended that the full \$750 million budget request for FY 2017 be funded.
- In his encyclical letter on ecology, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis wrote that "the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all" and that "the warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming." (23, 51) Catholics are encouraged to address the problems he identifies.

The Green Climate Fund will be the leading institution to support clean energy and resilience in the developing world.

- A core aspect of addressing global climate change is building the capability of developing nations to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.
- The GCF primarily receives funding from developed countries, though middle income countries have also provided support. To date, a total of \$10.2 billion has been pledged towards the Fund's initial capitalization from more than 30 countries.

Investing in efforts to address climate change globally is the right thing to do.

From an *economic perspective*:

- There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that investing in building resilience has greater value-for-money than humanitarian response to disasters.
- A [UK-funded study](#) found that in Kenya, over a 20 year period, every \$1 spent on disaster resilience resulted in \$2.90 saved in the form of reduced humanitarian spend, avoided losses and development gains.

- Similar results were found in [studies](#) in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Niger.

*From a **national security** perspective:*

- Security experts, including those at the [Department of Defense](#), have identified climate change as a “threat multiplier” that can exacerbate existing threats to U.S. and international security, such as competition for natural resources, disease, and civil strife.

*From a **moral** perspective:*

- The impacts of climate change must be addressed to avoid undermining or reversing development gains in poor countries, especially those in vulnerable regions like Sub-Saharan Africa and small island developing states. A [recent assessment by the World Bank](#) illustrates how climate change increasingly threatens health and livelihoods of vulnerable populations, magnifying existing challenges to poverty alleviation.
- Climate change is an urgent issue and is an important area for US leadership.

Supporting international climate change funds has been an important priority for both Republican and Democratic Administrations.

- US support for international climate action is not a new activity. Under the George W. Bush Administration, the [US pledged an ambitious \\$2 billion](#) to the World Bank’s Climate Investment Funds in 2008.
- According to a 2015 [poll](#) from Stanford University, the New York Times, and Resources for the Future, 74% of Americans believe the federal government should be doing a substantial amount to combat climate change, including 51% of Republicans polled. Two-thirds said that they would be more likely to vote for political candidates who campaign on fighting climate change, including 48% of Republicans.